NATIONAL EDUCATION (IRELAND).

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons, dated 24 August 1857;—*for*,

COPY "of CORRESPONDENCE between the Commissioners of National Education in *Ireland* and the Reverend *J. W. M'Gawley*, relative to his RESIGNATION of the Situation of Professor in the Training Department of the NATIONAL BOARD."

BOARD OF NATIONAL EDUCATION, IRELAND.

EXTRACT from the MINUTES of the PROCEEDINGS of the BOARD on the 28th November 1856.

THE Commissioners proceed to consider the important business for which they were specially summoned to meet at 4 o'clock this day.

The Resident Commissioner informs the Board, confidentially, that a report existed that the Rev. J. W. M'Gawley, one of the Professors at the head of the Training Department, had been suspended as a priest by Archbishop Cullen; and also, that a young woman who had gone through the course of training under the Professors, four years ago, for the office of teacher, as an extern student, has since that period resided in the house with the Rev. Mr. M'Gawley, in the capacity of "housekeeper," and that she has, on several occasions, travelled with him, unaccompanied by any other person, to the Continent, and elsewhere, during his vacations.

Ordered, That the Rev. J. W. M'Gawley be informed that certain reports, seriously affecting his moral character, have been brought under the consideration of the Board; and also, that the Commissioners have been informed that he has been suspended by Archbishop Cullen upon grounds which would render it inexpedient for them to retain him in his position as one of the Professors at the head of the Training Department.

That the Rev. Mr. M'Gawley be further informed, that the Commissioners have appointed the hour of four o'clock on Tuesday next, the 2d December, for the further consideration of the matter, when any explanation he may think fit to give will be carefully considered; and, also, that the Commissioners are desirous that he should (if he deem such a course advisable) attend in person to afford such explanation.

EXTRACTS from the MINUTES of the PROCEEDINGS of the BOARD at a Special Meeting on the 2d of December 1856.

READ letter of the 29th ultimo, addressed to the Rev. J. W. M'Gawley, by the Secretaries, in pursuance of the Minute of the Board of the 28th ultimo. *See* Appendix, No. 1.

Read letter, No. 8628/56, from the Rev. J. W. M'Gawley, dated the 1st December, in reply, in which he states, first, as to the suspension, that Archbishop Cullen has no authority over him; that the Commissioners have nothing whatever to do with him (Mr. M'Gawley) as an ecclesiastic, but are bound to judge of him themselves, on his own actions, as they would any other officer; and, as regards the charges affecting his moral character, he demands a written statement of the charges, and the names of his accusers; that when this has been complied with, he will be prepared to afford every means of making the fullest inquiry, and shall claim such inquiry as a matter of right. *See* Appendix, No. 2.

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The Commissioners having taken into consideration the Rev. J. W. M'Gawley's letter, decline to comply with his request; direct that he be called before them, and the nature of the charges be stated, and that he be required to answer the following questions—

Is it true that a girl of the name of Julia Cahill entered the Training Class as an extern pupil, in 1852? That she was recommended for this purpose by you?

That she has, since that time, lived with you, in your house at Rathmines?

Has she travelled with you to London and to the Continent during your vacation?

How often?

Has she travelled with you to various parts of Ireland during this year's vacation?

On these occasions, did any other person accompany you and her?

Have you received an order of suspension, as a priest, from Archbishop Cullen?

Will you produce it?

Previously to issuing this suspension, did he request you to remove Julia Cahill from your house?

Did any other person expostulate with you respecting Julia Cahill?

The Rev. J. W. M'Gawley is called in. The Chairman explains the charges, and intimates to him that it is optional with him to answer or not the questions he is about to put; but in the event of his declining to reply to them, he must be prepared for the consequences of such refusal. The Rev. J. W. M'Gawley is further informed that he is to recollect the relation in which he stands towards the Commissioners, as one of their officers; and, as such, they deem it necessary to inquire into his conduct.

The Chairman acquaints the Rev. J. W. M'Gawley that the Commissioners do not enter into the consideration of his suspension by Archbishop Cullen.

The Rev. J. W. M'Gawley answers the above questions in a general manner, and in the affirmative, accompanied by a lengthened explanation of his conduct, and hands in a translation of Archbishop Cullen's suspension.

The Rev. J. W. M'Gawley then retires, and the Commissioners proceed to consider his statements and explanations.

Ordered, That, it appearing from the admission of the Rev. J. W. M'Gawley, that a female who had been recommended by him as an extern pupil of the female training class in 1852, stated then to have been 22 years of age, has been for the last four years living in his house, and that she has travelled with him to London and on the Continent on several occasions, unaccompanied by any other person, and that he has also travelled in Ireland within this year in the same manner; the Commissioners are unanimously of opinion that his conduct in these particulars has been marked by such gross indiscretion that they feel it impossible to retain him in the responsible position which he holds. The Commissioners therefore direct the Secretaries to inform the Rev. J. W. M'Gawley that he is forthwith dismissed from their service, and that his salary will be paid to the end of this month.

Ordered further, That the foregoing minute be not issued, and that it be laid before the Commissioners at their next regular meeting on Friday, the 5th instant, for further consideration and final decision.

EXTRACTS from the MINUTES of the PROCEEDINGS of the Board, on the 5th December 1856.

See Appendix, No. 3.

THE Secretary reads a letter, No. 8683/56, dated the 3d instant, from the Rev. J. W. M'Gawley, in which he gives the names and addresses of several persons alluded to by him in his verbal explanation made before the Board on the 2d instant, in order to afford the Commissioners the power of testing the truth of the statements made by him on a previous day, viz., that several of Miss Cahill's relations

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relations and friends had been in the habit of visiting her while in charge of his establishment, and he encloses a Latin copy of Archbishop Cullen's suspension.

Ordered, That the Commissioners do not consider it necessary to refer to the parties named in the Rev. J. W. M'Gawley's letter now read, and they unanimously agree that the minute adopted at their meeting of the 2d instant be conveyed to him in the following terms:

It appearing from the admission of the Rev. J. W. M'Gawley that a female who had been recommended by him as an extern pupil of the female training class in 1852 (stated then to have been 22 years of age), has been for the last four years living in his house, and that she has travelled with him to London and on the Continent on several occasions, unaccompanied by any other person, and that he has also travelled in Ireland within this year in the same manner, the Commissioners are unanimously of opinion that his conduct in these respects has been marked by such gross indiscretion as to be calculated to bring discredit on the Training Department, of which he is one of the heads, and to lead to such unfavourable conclusions as to render him unfit to be continued in his present office.

Taking this view of the Rev. Mr. M'Gawley's conduct, the Commissioners do not feel it incumbent on them to proceed further in any inquiry respecting the position of the female alluded to in the establishment of the Rev. Mr. M'Gawley, nor do they pronounce any opinion which might be considered as conveying any reflection, personally, upon her.

The Commissioners therefore direct the Secretaries to inform the Rev. J. W. M'Gawley that he is forthwith dismissed from their service, and that his salary will be paid to the end of this month.

Mr. Cross is authorised to communicate, verbally, the substance of the above minute to the Rev. J. W. M'Gawley, and to intimate to him that if, under the circumstances, he feel inclined to resign his situation, the Board would accept his resignation.

EXTRACTS from the MINUTES of the PROCEEDINGS of the Board, at the Special Meeting held on the 8th December 1856.

THE Secretary informs the Board that, before communicating officially to the Rev. J. W. M'Gawley the minute of the 5th instant, he had received a letter from him, dated the 6th instant, requesting permission to tender his resignation, and that, having consulted the Resident Commissioner, he directed that a special meeting of the Board should be summoned for this day to take the above letter into consideration, and authorised the Secretary to postpone the issue of the minute. *See* Appendix, No. 4.

Ordered, That the Rev. J. W. M'Gawley be informed that the Commissioners have had before them his letter of the 6th instant, requesting permission to resign his office as one of the Professors in their Training Department; that the Commissioners have acceded to his request, and accepted his resignation accordingly; also, that his salary will be paid up to the 31st instant (December), in conformity with their minute of the 2d instant. *See* Appendix, No. 5.

(A true copy.)

Maurice Cross, } Secretaries.
James Kelly, }

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APPENDIX.

No. 1.

(B. O. 28/11/56.)

Office of National Education,
29 November 1856.

Sir,

We are directed by the Commissioners of National Education to acquaint you, that certain reports, which seriously affect your moral character, have been brought under their consideration; and also, that they have been informed that you have been suspended by Archbishop Cullen, upon grounds which would render it inexpedient for them to retain you in your position as one of the Professors at the head of the Training Department.

Under these circumstances, the Commissioners have appointed the hour of four o'clock, p.m., on Tuesday next, the 2d December, for the further consideration of the matter referred to, when any explanation which you may think fit to afford will be carefully considered. The Commissioners are also desirous that you should (if you deem it advisable) attend in person to give such explanation.

We are, &c.
(signed) *Maurice Cross*,
James Kelly,
Secretaries.

Rev. J. W. M'Gawley, &c. &c.

No. 2.

(8628/56.)

Gentlemen,

Office of Education, 1 December 1856.

I find with surprise and pain from yours of the 29th ultimo, that, after nearly twenty years—the best of my life—spent in the service of the Commissioners, I am called upon imperatively by them to defend my moral character against vague, and cruel "reports," for which it is unjust to hold me responsible, and the very nature of which is totally unknown to me; and that I am required to enter into an explanation regarding the "grounds" of Archbishop Cullen's very unjustifiable attempt to suspend me, though he has not given to myself any information about them, and I have yet to learn what they are.

As to what is asserted to be a "suspension," I can look upon it only as an effort to injure my character, for Dr. Cullen, though he pretends to "suspend me from every office and benefice in this diocese," is perfectly well aware that I have not held either the one or the other for years, and he has no authority over me, as I have long since resigned the profession which alone could furnish even the least pretext for his considering me under his control. This is merely a spiritual matter, on which I am perfectly competent to decide according to the dictates of my own conscience. The Commissioners have nothing whatever to do with me as an ecclesiastic; neither my letter of appointment nor any communications I have ever received from them have implied that my duties are in the least connected with ecclesiastical concerns; nor would they be justified in entering into any question relating to spiritual jurisdiction over me; they are bound to judge me themselves, and by my own actions, precisely as they would any other of their officers.

They cannot, certainly, have allowed scandalous "reports" seriously affecting my character to have been brought forward, except in the usual official way, and by a distinct and authenticated statement; and I respectfully demand a copy of that statement.

To sum up all, I am arraigned in consequence of "reports" which the Commissioners have been told are in circulation: I demand what these reports are, and on whose authority they are given, that I may cover the authors and the circulators of them with deserved confusion. Secondly, it is assumed that I am suspended by Dr. Cullen; but I deny that it was in his power to suspend me, who

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who have long since resigned every ecclesiastical office and function, and all the emoluments attached to them.

Lastly, I demand to know what are the "grounds" of this asserted suspension, which have caused the Commissioners to speak so strongly to me in their letter, and which, I again repeat, have never been communicated to myself.

When these forms, which the Commissioners know are indispensable to the ends of justice, shall have been complied with, by furnishing me with the documents I have mentioned, I shall not only afford every means of making the fullest inquiry, but shall claim such inquiry as a matter of right, that my character may stand in that position which I feel conscious it deserves; for I am satisfied that the more fully my conduct is examined, the more correct and honourable it will appear, and I shall then, also, avail myself of their permission to attend in person upon them.

Your, &c.
(signed) *J. W. M'Gawley.*

The Secretaries, Office of Education.

No. 3.

(8683/56.)

Gentlemen, Office of Education, 3 December 1856.

That I may afford to the Commissioners every opportunity of testing before Friday next the truth of those statements which have been made, I beg to give more clearly the half-dozen names, &c. which first occurred to my mind when I was before them on yesterday afternoon.

They are as follows:—Doctor and Mrs. Cahill, Albert-terrace, Hyde Park, London, uncle and aunt; Mr. and Mrs. Gawrell, Naulswood, Clonee, county Meath, Mrs. Gawrell a first cousin; Mr. and Mrs. Doyle and family, 8, Sydney-avenue, Blackrock, connexions.

And I request of the Commissioners to require that at least one instance be given, showing that any of the brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, cousins, or other friends of the lady whose character has been so cruelly aspersed by my secret accuser have manifested, by ceasing to visit her, or in any other way, the slightest disapprobation of her having taken charge, or continuing in charge, of my establishment.

I also enclose a Latin copy of Archbishop Cullen's pretended suspension. The Commissioners can see the original any moment they please.

Your, &c.
The Secretaries, Office of Education. (signed) *J. W. M'Gawley.*

Paulus Cullen, Dei et Apostolicæ Sedis gratiâ Archiepiscopus Dubliniensis, Primas Hiberniæ:

Rev^do J. W. M'Gawley, Sacerdoti Dubliniensis, quondam Canonico de Saggaro, &c.:

Cum proprie Episcoparum muniis sit cavere ne clerici criminosi sint, neve inhonestam vitam ipsis conniventibus ducant, nostrum esse, existimavimus de tua vivendi ratione inquirere, et pœnas quasdam in te statuere. Ei itaque nostri officii, et ad normam decreti S. Tridentini Concilii Sess. XIV. Cap. 1. de Reformatione, te ex informata conscientia ab omni officio et beneficio in hac diœcesi suspendimus. Per viscera vero misericordiæ Dei nostri hortamus te ut scandala data quæcumque repares, pœnitentiæ fructus facias, resque differas reconciliari cum Ecclesia, ne in omnipotentis Judicis manus incidas.

✠ *Paulus Cullen,*
Archiep. Primas Hiberniæ, Del. Apost.

Datum Dublini,
die 30 Octobris 1856.

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No. 4.

(8722/56.)

Gentlemen, Office of Education, 6 December 1857.

In consequence of what I find to have been acts of indiscretion on my part, my usefulness as an officer of the Board would be seriously impaired. I beg permission therefore of the Commissioners to resign the office which I hold under them, and to thank them for the kindness I have experienced at their hands, during the long period of nearly 19 years.

Your, &c.
(signed) *J. W. M'Gawley.*

The Secretaries, Office of Education.

No. 5.

(B.O. 8/12/56.)

Sir, Office of National Education, 9 December 1857.

We have received and laid before the Commissioners of National Education, at their special meeting on yesterday, your letter of the 6th instant, requesting permission to resign your office as one of the Professors in their Training Department.

In reply, we are directed to acquaint you, that the Commissioners have acceded to your request, and accepted your resignation accordingly. Your salary will be paid up to the 31st instant.

We are, &c.
(signed) *Maurice Cross,*
James Kelly,
Secretaries.

Rev. J. W. M'Gawley,
66, Leinster-road, Rathmines.

(True copy.)
7/7/57. *B. L. Whitaker.*

(True copy.)
Maurice Cross,
James Kelly,
Secretaries.

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NATIONAL EDUCATION (IRELAND).

COPY of MINUTES of PROCEEDINGS of the Board of National Education, *Ireland*, with reference to the Resignation of the Rev. J. W. M'Gauley, and of the CORRESPONDENCE connected therewith.

(*Captain Daniel O'Connell.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed*, 24 *August* 1857.

297—Sess. 2.

Under 1 *oz.*

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